

Resistance of Trees to Deer Damage



The following list of trees is the result of a survey completed by Master Gardeners from the Cornell Cooperative Extension – Westchester County. Using information collected in their own gardens and neighborhoods, they listed plants under the headings “Plants Rarely or Never Eaten by Deer”, “Plants Occasionally Eaten by Deer”, and “Plants Often or Always Eaten by Deer”. **Deer damage depends on many factors, including the size of the local deer population, the territory they have to roam, other available food sources, and the time of year.** Therefore, a plant that is never grazed in one garden may be slightly or even heavily damaged in another garden. **This fact sheet can only be used by the gardener as a general guideline until the characteristics of the local deer population are known.**

PLANTS RARELY OR NEVER EATEN BY DEER

Bottlebrush Buckeye - *Aesculus parviflora*
Mimosa - *Albizia julibrissin*
Pawpaw - *Asimina triloba*
River Birch - *Betula nigra*
Paper Birch - *Betula papyrifera*
Katsura Tree - *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*
American Holly - *Ilex opaca*
Dwarf Alberta Spruce - *Picea glauca* 'Conica'
Red Pine - *Pinus resinosa*
Pitch Pine - *Pinus rigida*
Japanese Black Pine - *Pinus thunbergiana*

PLANTS OCCASIONALLY EATEN BY DEER

Paperbark Maple - *Acer griseum*
Japanese Maple - *Acer palmatum*
Striped Maple - *Acer pensylvanicum*
Red Maple - *Acer rubrum*
Sugar Maple - *Acer saccharum*
Ruby Horsechestnut - *Aesculus x carnea*
Downy Serviceberry - *Amelanchier arborea*
Shadbush - *Amelanchier canadensis*
Allegheny Serviceberry - *Amelanchier laevis*
Chinese Paper Birch - *Betula albo-sinensis*
Himalayan Birch - *Betula jacquemontii*
Yellow Birch - *Betula lutea*
European White Birch - *Betula pendula*
Common Flowering Quince - *Chaenomeles speciosa*
Japanese Falsecypress - *Chamaecyparis pisifera*
Chinese Fringe Tree - *Chionanthus retusus*
Kousa Dogwood - *Cornus kousa*
English Hawthorn - *Crataegus laevigata*
Japanese Cedar - *Cryptomeria japonica*
European Beech - *Fagus sylvatica*
Green Ash - *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*
European Ash - *Fraxinus excelsior*
Honey Locust - *Gleditsia triacanthos*

Dragon Lady, San Jose Holly - *Ilex x aquipernyi*
Eastern Red Cedar - *Juniperus virginiana*
Goldenrain Tree - *Koelreuteria paniculata*
Tulip Tree - *Liriodendron tulipifera*
Dawn Redwood - *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*
Sourwood - *Oxydendrum arboreum*
Norway Spruce - *Picea abies*
White Spruce - *Picea glauca*
Serbian Spruce - *Picea omorika*
Colorado Blue Spruce - *Picea pungens*
Japanese Red Pine - *Pinus densiflora*
Austrian Pine - *Pinus nigra*
Eastern White Pine - *Pinus strobus*
Scotch Pine - *Pinus sylvestris*
Japanese Flowering Cherry - *Prunus serrulata*
Douglas Fir - *Pseudotsuga menziesii*
Corkscrew Willow - *Salix matsudana tortuosa*
Common Sassafras - *Sassafras albidum*

PLANTS OFTEN EATEN BY DEER

Balsam Fir - *Abies balsamea*
White Fir - *Abies concolor*
Fraser Fir - *Abies fraseri*
Norway Maple - *Acer platanoides*
Silver Maple - *Acer saccharinum*
Common Horsechestnut - *Aesculus hippocastanum*
Atlas Cedar - *Cedrus atlantica*
Eastern Redbud - *Cercis canadensis*
Hinoki Cypress - *Chamaecyparis obtusa*
Atlantic White Cedar - *Chamaecyparis thyoides*
White Fringe Tree - *Chionanthus virginicus*
Alternate-Leaved Dogwood - *Cornus alternifolia*
Flowering Dogwood - *Cornus florida*
Cornelian Cherry - *Cornus mas*
Leyland Cypress - *Cupressocyparis leylandii*
Pernyi Holly - *Ilex pernyi*

PLANTS OFTEN EATEN BY DEER

Nellie Stevens Holly - *Ilex x 'Nellie R. Stevens'*

European Larch - *Larix decidua*

Sweetgum - *Liquidambar styraciflua*

Apples - *Malus sp.*

Sweet Cherry - *Prunus avium*

Plums - *Prunus sp.*

Cherries - *Prunus sp.*

Callery Pear - *Pyrus calleryana*

Common Pear - *Pyrus communis*

White Oak - *Quercus alba*

Chestnut Oak - *Quercus prinus*

Northern Red Oak - *Quercus rubra*

Staghorn Sumac - *Rhus typhina*

Black Locust - *Robinia pseudoacacia*

Willows - *Salix*

European Mountain Ash - *Sorbus aucuparia*

Bald Cypress - *Taxodium distichum*

Western Arborvitae - *Thuja plicata*

American Arborvitae - *Thuja occidentalis*

Basswood - *Tilia americana*

Greenspire Littleleaf Linden - *Tilia cordata 'Greenspire'*

Hemlock - *Tsuga canadensis*

Carolina Hemlock - *Tsuga caroliniana*